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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT Military and Industrial Installations
in and Around Riga

DATE DISTR.

3 May 1958

NO. PAGES

1

REFERENCES

RD

DATE OF
INFO.PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

The following reports on military and industrial installations in and around Riga

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Attachments:

1. A five-page report containing a description of an armed airfield at Chernyakhovsk (N 54-38, E 21-47), including a sketch with a legend identifying seven locations on the airfield. The report also mentions some installations of the Baltic Army which were located in Riga. The industrial installations mentioned in the report include an electrical plant, a plant producing railroad and streetcar rolling stock, a chemical plant, a pottery plant and a steel plant.
2. A four-page report containing information on an electrical plant in Riga, a bicycle plant in Riga, a plant producing trolley cars in Riga and a steel foundry in Liepaja. The report also contains observations on the reorganization of the Soviet economy.

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ENCLOSURE ATTACHED
PLEASE ROUTE

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#").																			

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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RD

Number of hauls	<i>P. setiferus</i> (%)	<i>P. setiferus</i> + <i>P. setiferus</i> + <i>P. setiferus</i> (%)	<i>P. setiferus</i> + <i>P. setiferus</i> + <i>P. setiferus</i> (%)
1	~10	~20	~70
2	~5	~15	~80
3	~3	~10	~87
4	~2	~8	~90
5	~1	~5	~94
6	~1	~4	~95
7	~1	~3	~96
8	~1	~2	~97
9	~1	~1	~98
10	~1	~1	~98

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SCIENCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.



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A. SOVIET LAND FORCES

Attachment # 1/25X1

a. HeadquartersBaltic Army Headquarters (Dec 1955)

[redacted] in Riga, on Lenina Ulitsa.

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The commanding officer is Marshal Bagramian, an Armenian.

Riga Military Garrison Headquarters (Dec 1955)

Located at 9 or 10 Rajnica Ulitsa. The commanding officer is a general.

b. Higher-Echelon UnitsLatvian Rifle Division (Dec 1955)

[redacted] existence in Riga.

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c. ServicesMilitary Polyclinic in Riga (Dec 1955)

Located at 2 Rajnica Ulitsa. It houses the military medical commission concerned with draftees, and special medical commissions concerned with pensions, disability, etc.

Military Hospital in Riga (Dec 1955)

Located in the Maskovski Rayon.

d. MiscellaneousConscripts in Labor Battalions (Dec 1955)

Recruits who for various reasons are not considered suitable for service in operational units are assigned to serve their regular military service term in the labor battalions. This is done with recruits who are unruly, or are considered hostile to Communism, or are not physically fit, or are former convicts, or are illiterate or semi-illiterate (i.e., they have not advanced beyond the seventh elementary grade.)

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B. SOVIET ECONOMIC INFORMATION

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a. Industry**"Vsesoyuznaya Elektricheskaya Fabrika" (All-Union Electrical Plant) (V.E.F.)****(Dec 1955)**

An old plant which was expanded after the war. It employs about 10,000 workers and produces the following items:

1. Radio sets labeled "LUR," "DAVOOVA," and "VEF."
2. Automatic telephone exchanges and switchboards.
3. Automatic telephone sets for civilian use.

The plant has a so-called "S" department engaged in special (military) production.

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"Red Star" Works (Dec 1955)

Located at the end of Lenina Ulitsa, near the V.E.F. Complex, on the opposite side of the street. It produces bicycles and motorcycles.

"Vairoga" Works (Dec 1955)

Located on Lenina Ulitsa, near the V.E.F. plant. It produces rail-road and streetcar rolling stock.

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"Kislodnyy" Works (Dec 1955)

A chemical plant located on Lac Plesa.

"Farfora Fayankava" Works (Dec 1955)

This is an earthenware and porcelain factory located at an unknown address in Riga. Until 1953 it had an "S" (special) department which

- 2 -

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used to produce something that looked like a match, 1-1 1/2 centimeters long, made of refined clay, which after undergoing thermic or chemical treatment acquired special hardness, so that it would not break even if dropped to the ground. It was said that this match-like thing was inserted in the ignition device of hand grenades.

"Krasnaya Metallurgiya" (Red Metallurgy) Works at Liepaja (Dec 1955)

[redacted] this is a steel plant and heavy foundry for the production of steel and ferrous metal alloys.

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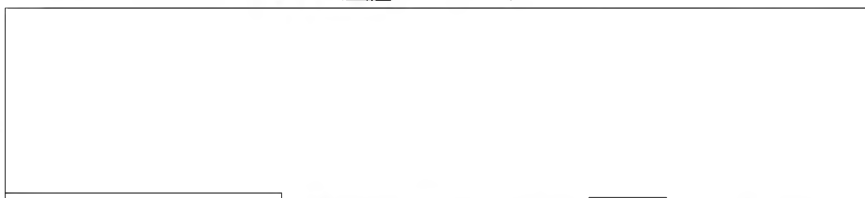
C. SOVIET AIR FORCE

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a. Airfields

Armed Airfield at Chernyakhovsk (Jan 1955)

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[redacted] The information furnished [redacted] is of a general nature.

Location

[redacted] Airfield is located approximately 10 kilometers north of Chernyakhovsk, in the flat area comprised between the east side of the Chernyakhovsk-Skaigirren-Sovetsk road and the west side of the Chernyakhovsk-Sovetsk railroad line. The airfield's geographic coordinates are: 54° 44' North Lat., 21° 57' East Long. (see attached sketch).

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General Remarks

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This is a new airfield which began operations at the end of 1952. It is enclosed by a wire fence. [redacted]

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"Dnepraya Metallurgiya" (Red Metallurgy) Works at Lysa (Dec 1955)

[redacted] this is a steel plant and heavy foundry for the production of steel and ferrous metal alloys.

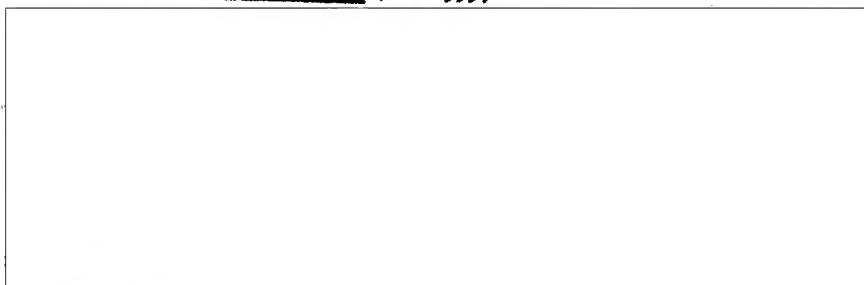
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C. SOVIET AIR FORCE

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a. Airfields

Armed Airfield at Chernyakhovsk (Jan 1955)



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Location

[redacted] Airfield is located approximately 10 kilometers north of Chernyakhovsk, in the flat area comprised between the east side of the Chernyakhovsk-Skalskirenn-Sovetsk road and the west side of the Chernyakhovsk-Sovetsk railroad line. The airfield's geographic coordinates are: 54° 44' North Lat., 21° 57' East Long. (see attached sketch).

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General Remarks

This is a new airfield which began operations at the end of 1952. It is enclosed by a wire fence. [redacted]

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Runway

The runway is made of concrete, is about 3,000 meters long and 50-60 meters wide, and runs approximately on a West-East axis.

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Description

Subject airfield does not have the usual installations such as barracks and buildings for housing purposes and various services.

The various services are housed in temporary huts, while the personnel are billeted in Chernyakhvsk.

The numerals listed below correspond to those appearing in the attached sketch.

1. Entrance.
2. Four metal hangars, each about 120 x 60 meters in size.
3. Concrete [aircraft?] parking area.
4. Runway.
5. Three-story building, which houses the airfield's headquarters and various offices.

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6. Fuel dump

Underground oil pipelines, laid at the end of 1954, which runs between the fuel dump and the hangars.

The airfield is lighted at night. Lights are provided along the sides and at the two ends of the runway.

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Units and Aircraft Stationed at Airfield

In January 1955, about 200 (?) MIG jet fighters were stationed there.

At that time a labor battalion, composed of about 1,000 men, was also stationed at the airfield. This battalion was employed in the following tasks:

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1. Maintenance and repairing of the runway

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2. Laying of an underground oil pipeline running between the fuel dump and the hangars.

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3. Work to complete the airfield.

The labor battalion was housed in an old barracks, formerly occupied by the Germans, in Chernyakhovsk.

D. SOVIET NAVY

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a. Naval Bases

Liepaya Naval Base (Dec 1955)

This is the largest Soviet naval base in the Baltic states.

A regulation has been in effect since 1950 according to which no Soviet citizen who does not reside in Liepaya may go there without a special pass.

Milgravis (Riga) Naval Base (Dec 1955)

Milgravis is a small place located 40-50 kilometers west-northwest of Riga. Bus No. 3 goes there from Riga.

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Attachment No. 1

CHERNYAKHOVSK (ex-LENNINGRAD) ARMED AIRFIELD

[Sketch]

Legend

1. Entrance
2. 4 hangars
3. Parking area
4. Runway
5. Headquarters building
6. Fuel dump
7. Underground oil pipeline

- 5 -

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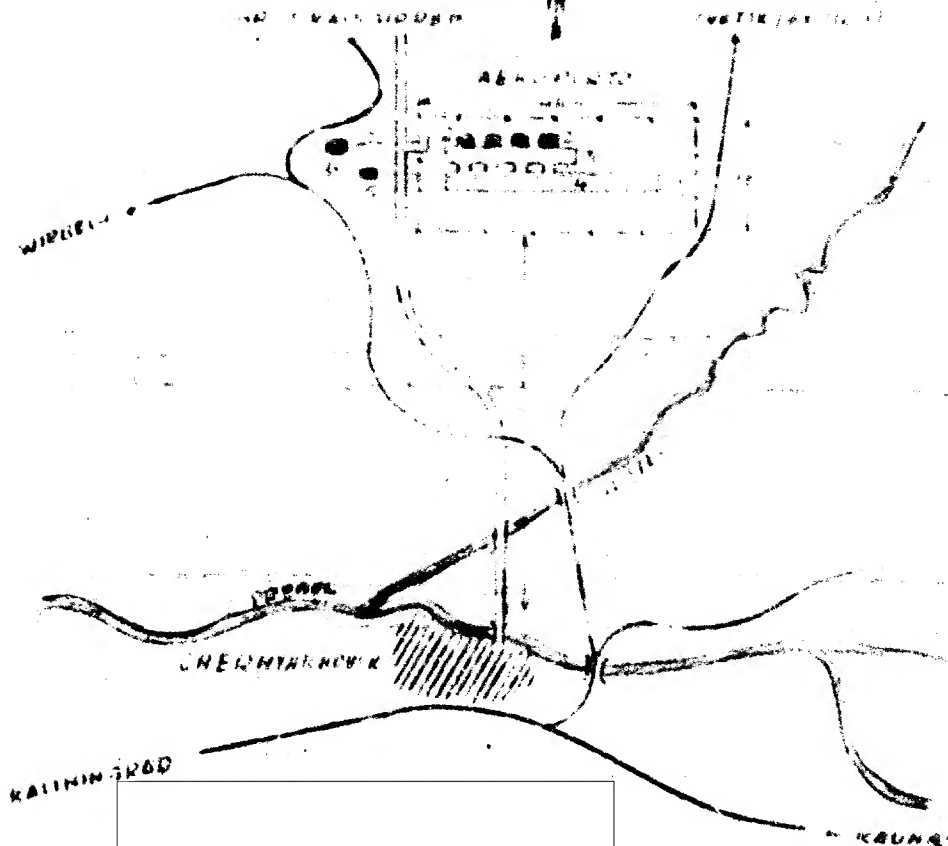
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORTS II ARE AID TO CHECHYHOVSE (EX I-TENSURE)

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ECONOMIC INFORMATION ON THE USSR

Attachment #2

"All-Soviet Electrical Plant" in Riga

(November 1957)

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Location

The plant is at the end of LENINA Ulitsa.

Description

This is an old plant that was developed and enlarged after the war.

Labor Force

From 5,000 to 6,000 workers.

Production

- "VEF" radio receivers for civilian use, containing 3, 5, or 6 tubes; one model is the "Baltika 6," with 6 tubes.
- automatic telephone exchanges for civilian use.
- automatic telephone commutators for civilian use.
- telephones for civilian use.

Note

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The VEF displayed its products [redacted] It is one of the plants included in the itinerary arranged for the numerous technical missions visiting the USSR.

"Red Star" Plant in Riga

(November 1957)

This plant is located opposite the above-mentioned VEF.

Production

Bicycles, tricycles, and light mechanical articles.

- 1 -

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"VAIROG" (Shield) Plant in Riga

(November 1957)

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Location

Near the VEF.

Production

- trolley cars.
- electrical motors for trolley cars and locomotives.
- buses.

Steel Foundry in LIEPAYA

(November 1957)

This foundry, renamed the "Red Metallurgical Plant" is the only steel foundry in operation in the Latvian SSR. It supplies steel and iron to all Latvian plants.

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MISCELLANEOUS

(December 1957)

Radical Change in the Management of the Soviet Internal Economy

The bureaucratic decentralization process now being completed in the USSR is intended to trim and accelerate the implementation of production plans. A primary goal, moreover, is the establishment of economic autonomy for the federated republics. As a result, the latter are required to exploit local resources in the most suitable manner and meet as much as possible local demand for primary consumer goods.

Formerly everything was under the control of the Moscow ministries, whose supervision was intended solely for the fulfillment of general economic

- 2 -

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plans, without accurately assessing the local advantages and disadvantages of a given industry or production activity. Thus, for example, a certain factory in Odessa would produce winter clothing suitable for the Siberian climate and consequently not needed by the people in the Black Sea region. Such clothing had to be shipped thousands of miles to the consumer markets, with a considerable burden on the transportation system and supply shortages occurring as a result. Conversely, a textile factory in Siberia would produce linen, silk, and cotton fabrics for clothing to be used in areas with southern climate, thus again burdening transportation and resulting in supply shortages.

A People's Economic Council in Each Republic

The bureaucratic decentralization and economic reorganization in the USSR provide above all for the setting up of a "SOVNARKHIZ" (People's Economic Council) in each republic. These councils are already being formed and their members have already been designated. Councils are already functioning in some of the republics, and will be functioning in others by the end of 1957.

Such a council's main task is to direct the production of its respective republic so as to have maximum production, taking into account local resources and needs. Thus, the fulfillment of production plans for each branch of the economy in the republics will no longer be controlled by the respective central ministry in Moscow. The latter, instead, will issue broad economic directives, which may even be ignored by the councils, and will seek solely to coordinate economic activities in the various republics. The councils will not have to indicate to the Moscow ministries the extent to which they have complied with their advice, but will report on what they have done on their own.

- 3 -

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Another way in which the above-mentioned councils' autonomy is guaranteed

is their right to contract work from one another. The council in Riga, for example, acting through the VEF in Riga, may undertake to supply a specific quantity of radios to the council in Kiev. Such contracts may involve either payment or barter.

The councils therefore compete with one another in marketing their products.

Decentralization of Personnel

The decentralization of administrative personnel from Moscow has meant that thousands of functionaries and employees of the economic ministries are being or have already been transferred to the SOVMARKNOLES of the various republics. To prevent excessive discontent among such personnel, they are being given transfer compensation and their household effects are transported gratis.

Heavy and Military Industries

Heavy and military industrial establishments as well as all establishments which are in any way related to the latter (i. e., the military) will, regardless of their location, continue to be under the direct control of the respective central ministries in Moscow, which will continue to supervise them and control their production.

- 4 -

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